

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

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Known systems typically deliver a fixed volume of a diluted sample solution at a fixed rate for quantitative (i.e., counting) and qualitative (i.e., characterizing) the cells by optical detection means, or magnetic detection means. Techniques involving multiple counts where repetitive delivery of a predetermined volume of diluted sample is performed are sometimes employed to improve low-end precision, but this is done at the expense of sampling throughput.